

Application No. 09/996,681

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the rejections of the Examiner in the present application. Claims 1-9 are canceled. In light of this Applicants believe that since the remaining claims have been previously indicated as allowable the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration with the remaining claims now pending in the application.

In the first Office Action of January 2, 2004, claims 1 and 3 where rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,117,347, to Ishida (hereinafter Ishida). Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,302,554, to Kashiwa et al. (hereinafter Kashiwa). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,726,879, to Bondur et al. (hereinafter Bondur). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,570, to MacDonald, Jr. et al. (hereinafter MacDonald). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,201, to Sherrer, et al. (hereinafter Sherrer). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwa in view of Bondur. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwa in view of Sherrer. Claims 10-20 were indicated as allowed.

In the second Office Action of June 9, 2004, claims 1 and 3 where rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,117,347, to Cronin et al. (hereinafter Cronin). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cronin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,726,879, to Bondur et al. (hereinafter Bondur). Claims 4-6 are rejected under

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35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cronin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,570, to MacDonald, Jr. et al. (hereinafter MacDonald). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cronin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,201, to Sherrer, et al. (hereinafter Sherrer).

In the third Office Action of September 28, 2004, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,515,309, to Tohyama et al. (hereinafter Tohyama). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,726,879, to Bondur et al. (hereinafter Bondur). Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of Bondur and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,570, to MacDonald, Jr. et al. (hereinafter MacDonald). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of Bondur and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,201, to Sherrer, et al. (hereinafter Sherrer).

In this fourth Office Action of February 22, 2005, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,515,309, to Tohyama et al. (hereinafter Tohyama). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,726,879, to Bondur et al. (hereinafter Bondur). Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of Bondur and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,570, to MacDonald, Jr. et al. (hereinafter MacDonald). Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tohyama in view of Bondur and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,201, to Sherrer, et al. (hereinafter Sherrer).

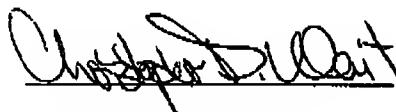
As indicated above claims 1-9 have been canceled. The Applicants believe that this places the current Application in condition for allowance.

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No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

It is respectfully submitted that the present set of claims, as amended, are patentably distinct over the cited references. In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby requested to call the undersigned attorney at (585) 423-6918, Rochester, NY.

Respectfully submitted,



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